

SLAYER'S DENIAL OF MURDER UNDER ETHER IS PROBLEM

Rutger Warder Gives Lawyer,
Doctors and Psychologists
New Puzzle.

NEW YORK, June 8.—"If anyone should ask you, I never killed anybody!"

Rutger Warder, helpless on an operating table, sinking under ether, said these startling words. Startling, because he is a resident of the death house at Sing Sing, condemned to die for the murder of Henry Werner in 1921.

Warder was stricken with appendicitis several days ago. He would have to die, anyway, pretty soon.

But every now and then the electric chair, a vile instrument of vengeance, must be fed with human flesh thrown into its embrace, just as the Minotaur was goaded with the bodies of youths and maidens.

Let Warder die and cheat the carefully-wired device of death that hungers for his body, they rushed him out to the prison hospital, where ether made him say:

"If anyone should ask you, I never killed anybody!"

What Did Ether Do?
Now the question is, did the anesthetic make Warder tell the truth or did he merely utter the denial that has been so often on his lips?

More than a year ago Dr. James Cotton of Toronto, announced his discovery of a preparation of ether which compels persons under its influence to speak the truth! Ether, following the Canadian experiment, was efficacious in a case in New Jersey. Dr. John Corcoran, of the staff of St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic, administered the drug, while officials questioned and thus obtained a truthful statement from a previously silent patient.

This hysterical girl, who had been found wandering about unable to tell anything about herself, cleared the mystery when ether loosened first her inhibitions and then her tongue. Dr. Corcoran said of the drug's properties:

"Etherization destroys the will to withhold facts, even though they may be derogatory to ourselves or others."

For all Warder knew he might be going to die when he went to the operating table for the removal of his appendix. Both in sinking under ether and in coming out from its influence, he affirmed his innocence of the crime for which he will be compelled to die on a certain day and in a certain way.

Could he possibly be guiltless of Werner's murder?

The matter was put up to a psychologist and to a woman lawyer for their respective opinions on the probability of Warder's truthfulness and the possibility of wrongful conviction.

Dr. Edward J. Kempf, well known as a mental expert, says he believes the case of Warder is worth investigating. So does Dr. Anna Hochfelder, lawyer. We shall review the opinions of both persons.

Two Expert Opinions.
"There are many cases of hysterical amnesia," explains Dr. Kempf, "perhaps I had better say 'repression,' in which people commit murder and proceed to forget every de-

'My Sensations As I Watched The Doctors Cut in My Heart'

BY OTTO THOME
First Man Operated on Under Influence of "Nerve Block," the New Anesthesia, Which Deadens Only Local Parts of the Body

CHICAGO, June 8.—I had been discharged from the navy as a hopeless invalid because of an abscess on the left lung.

On three previous occasions I had undergone operations with ether, none of which could be completed, because of the ether's effects.

Then Dr. Nelson H. Lowry took me under his care and soon after I was placed on an operating table at the Illinois Masonic hospital in Chicago.

Nerve block anesthesia was administered to me and soon my entire left side around the region of the lung seemed to have gone to sleep.

Seven Ribs Removed
My mind was clear though, and I laughed and joked with the nurses while I watched the doctor remove seven of my ribs while I lay in a sort of half sitting position.

Then with his knife the doctor worked into my heart, so it seemed, opening all the walls around the abscess.

It was fun to watch my heart throb. I even reached over and touched it.

Throughout all the operation I felt no pain.
In fact it was amusing to watch my internal organs function.
No one can ever tell me that I have no heart. I know I have.

Gains 40 Pounds
I have gained 40 pounds since my heart was an open secret even to myself.

Nerve block, the doctor told me, is like a local shutdown on a great electrical circuit.

Years ago when there was a break in the line, engineers had to close the whole power plant.

Now they merely plug out the affected part and the rest of the mechanism continues to function.

So surgeons have perfected a method of shutting off the nerve supply for an affected part of the body.

In this blocked area there is no sensation, and any repair can be made without pain or discomfort, while the rest of the body is functioning as usual.

tail of the crime. It is really a sort of hysteria in which the memory fails. These persons take the attitude of perfect innocence. I saw many cases of this sort while I was connected with the government hospital for the insane at Washington, D. C.

"Ether could produce both truth and delusions."
"These people who forget the details of their crimes are normal enough in other respects, outside of this one—repression."

"Warder's statement may be false or true."
"Do I believe there is any special drug or form of ether which will make people tell the truth? Nonsense!"

"But I do think the case is worth looking into."

Yet trials in the State of New York are reputed to be fair enough, although evidence is often deceptive. This is emphasized by Dr. Hochfelder, a woman who comes in touch with many phases of life through her legal work. She says:

"If circumstantial evidence were not allowed to figure as strongly as it does in a conviction I should not



OTTO THOME, WHO WATCHED SURGEONS LAY HIS HEART BARE.

be so bitterly opposed to capital punishment, I suppose.

"Trials are fair, it seems, yet we are all human beings—judge, prosecutor and jury."

"In this case of Warder it seems to me that it would have been more humane to let the man die if he were seriously ill."

"It looks as if the State wanted to have its vengeance. He must go through the agony of facing death all over again."

Deathbed Statements.
"His statement is like a deathbed confession."

"Yet think how much importance everyone attaches to the deathbed confession! It is always given credence!"

"They say our subconscious mind acts in dreams, and our thoughts that are stored away are then set free. I should think anything stored away would assert itself under these conditions."

"It seems to me to be a parallel to the way analysts explain dreams."

"I would want this man's affairs thoroughly investigated and think

the psychoanalysts would be interested in him.

"If I had my way with a prisoner, and if capital punishment were not abolished, I would wait till the day set for his execution and sentence him to life imprisonment. Then he would have been punished. The time of sentence till the day of execution is a period of terrible mental torture, and the imprisonment would restrain him in future."

Many convicts have gone to the chair protesting innocence, but this is the first time in thirty-one years that a man awaiting legal death

stood in danger of a natural one or sufficiently so to be removed to the hospital.

Whether ether brought truth or falsehood from Warder we cannot tell, but concerning the drug's action Dr. Corcoran said of Dr. Cotton's discovery:

Effects of Ether.
"When the muscles are relaxed and the nerves in a corresponding condition there is greater disposition to talk. It resembles that stage of a man's spree when he becomes communicative."

"Ether affects the respiratory ap-

paratus. The person under it inhales deeply and thoroughly expels the air. That is the most noticeable physiological reaction to ether."

"It also affects the spinal cord and the brain. It causes relaxation of the nervous system, a letting down of the nerve tension."

"It seems to me that it opens a vast field of possibilities in dealing with criminals or the victims of criminals or in handling unwilling witnesses."

Hunger is better than a French cook.

FIVE POINTS

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Carleton and daughter, Winifred, of South Bend, were Sunday guests of Mrs. Ella Carleton.

Mrs. Orta Taylor of South Bend, was a Sunday guest of her daughter Mrs. Harry Carleton and family.

Mr. and Mrs. James Williams and daughter, Geraldine, attended the Greene township S. S. convention held at Summation Prairie, Sunday.

The Korac family suffered a heavy loss Monday night when their barn was destroyed by fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Milliken and

children were South Bend visitors Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Williams and daughters, Emma and Ruth, of Mishawaka, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Carleton and family.

The feminine vanity bottle was used thousands of years ago. Several estimated to be 2,000 years old have been found with mummies of Egyptian pots held stibium, a preparation of finely powdered antimony with which Egyptian women of fashion darkened their eyelids and penciled their eyebrows.



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